

## Dem' Raider Boyz Step Up At Strathmore for Juneteenth

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY RICHARD MELVERN

Eleanor Roosevelt's Dem' Raider Boyz will perform at Strathmore on Monday, June 19.

School has already ended for many but on Monday, June 12, members of the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Step Team were hard at work, outside the closed school buildings, practicing in the light rain. They're preparing for their final performance of the year, which will be at the Strathmore in Bethesda, on Monday, June 19, Juneteenth. The team will be featured in Step Xplosion, a performance put together by Step Afrika!, which is a D.C.-based dance company dedicated to the African-American tradition of "stepping." "Honoring its rich roots in the African American fraternity and sorority experience, this show emphasizes the presence of stepping in the daily

and future lives of students," says Strathmore's description.

### Background

Black fraternities and sororities popularized step around the 40s and 50s, explains the ERHS Coach Richard Melvern, then "it kind of trickled down to the high schools and community around the early '90s, when it starts getting to movies, like School Daze" [a Spike Lee directed movie released in 1988, depicting college fraternity life].

Dem' Raider Boyz, was founded at ERHS in 2001, and has been working with Step Afrika! for about a decade now. Step Afrika! tours around the world, explained Melvern, but when they're local the dance company frequently collaborates with the

high school team.

### Longtime Coach

Melvorn was one of the original members of Roosevelt's step See **RAIDER BOYZ**, page 6

## Poor Air Quality Impacted Life in and around Greenbelt

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The haze and poor air quality Greenbelters woke up to on Wednesday took many by surprise. Wendy Young is an avid runner and had headed to Lake Artemesia that morning. A running partner texted her saying, "I hope you're not running in this." "In what?" she thought. "No one was really talking about it at that point," said Young, who found Wednesday's air quality crept in under the radar, while the focus was on Thursday when air quality reached code purple. Early Wednesday morning, she ran with a couple of friends and went home to shower and walk her dog before work. It was when she was walking about a quarter mile to her parking space that she started to feel physically ill and

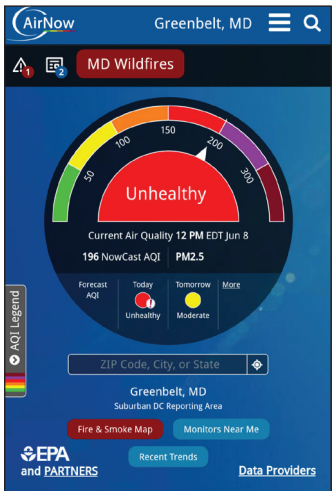


IMAGE COURTESY THE EPA

The Air Quality Index in Greenbelt reached code purple last week.

lightheaded.

At 8:36 a.m. the City of Greenbelt issued a code red warning for air quality. "There is currently a code red air quality for Greenbelt throughout the day due to wildfires in Canada. Everyone is advised to limit outdoor activity and close windows and doors; this is especially true for Greenbelters with high-risk factors, such as children, older Greenbelters and those with heart and respiratory conditions," it read.

Prince George's County Public Schools then cancelled outdoor activities, including recess, for See **AIR QUALITY**, page 8

## Greenbelt Elementary Fifth-Graders Graduate

by Eric McKenzie

Nearly 100 fifth-graders from Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) received their certificates of promotion at a ceremony at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on June 9, as hundreds of enthusiastic family members and friends cheered them on. The students entered in a grand procession and sang Best Day of My

Life. Principal Joel Nelson and Assistant Principal Sharelle Stag called each student onto the stage and handed out certificates and special awards.

Speakers included Dr. Monica Gaines (former GES principal), Kensington Clark and Maeve Waters from the Student

See **GES**, page 12



PHOTO BY ERIC MCKENZIE

Staff members applaud as fifth-graders cross the stage at the Greenbelt Elementary School Graduation.

### What Goes On

**Monday, June 19**  
Juneteenth Holiday: City Offices Closed  
**Tuesday, June 20**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, June 21**  
7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: WSSC, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for more information..

## Council Okays FY24 Budget And Open Space Spending

by Diane Oberg

The Greenbelt City Council adopted the budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) at its June 5 regular meeting. Council also approved submission of the FY24 Program Open Space plan to the county and witnessed Mayor Emmett Jordan present several proclamations.

### Budget

Council approved the council-suggested changes that had garnered consensus support at the May 24 final budget worksession. These included \$20,000 to the Greenbelt Refugee Assistance Committee, \$30,000 for a legislative support coordinator to help the city track county and state laws that might impact Greenbelt, \$5,000 to purchase electric tools ahead of schedule for the gas-powered tools they would replace, \$10,000 for additional trees and \$15,000 to cover miscellaneous expenses.

Other changes included adding \$138,100 to the contract covering police cameras, tasers and other equipment and \$7,500 for

improvements to one of the city's historic cemeteries. After these and other adjustments to both expenditures and revenues, the adopted budget calls for total general fund expenditures of \$36.05 million paid for by revenues of \$36.08.

After adopting the budget in a series of voice votes, council introduced the associated appropriations ordinance and voted to suspend the rule requiring action over two meetings, then passed the ordinance on a 6 to 1 vote with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed. Roberts did not give a reason for his opposition.

### Cameras

Councilmember Colin Byrd, supported by Roberts, raised concerns about the police department's policy regarding release of body camera footage. Byrd said he was aware of at least one incident where the department did not release footage of a use-of-force incident. Police

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

Tim



PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF GREENBELT

Deputy Chief Tim White is formally promoted at Monday's City Council meeting. He is pinned by his son, Army Second Lieutenant Tyler White.



## News Review on Vacation



PHOTO BY AMY KNESEL

Several Greenbelt families – including four News Review deliverers – camped in Pohick Bay Regional Park in Virginia. From left, Catalina and Jose Tillard; Maeve, Corita and Andrea Waters; Tomas Tillard and Tushar Ojha; and Leila Goddard (front).



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Michael Cooney and Kim Kash read the News Review while sailing on the Rita, on the Tred Avon River near Oxford, Maryland.

### On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

#### Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse

Miles Morales returns for the next chapter of the Oscar-winning Spider-Verse saga, an epic adventure that will transport Brooklyn’s full-time, friendly neighborhood Spider-Man across the Multiverse to join forces with Gwen Stacy and a new team of Spider-People to face off with a villain more powerful than anything they have ever encountered. Also starring Hailee Steinfeld, Oscar Isaac, Jake Johnson, Issa Rae and Daniel Kaluuya.

#### Grateful Dead Meet-Up at the Movies

A year after Brent Mydland’s passing, the Grateful Dead returned to the summer stadium circuit, playing Chicago’s Soldier Field for the first time, with two keyboard players filling the seat Brent left vacant. Bruce Hornsby and Vince Welnick’s presence and musical contributions reinvigorated and revitalized the Grateful Dead, and the inspiration of the Dead’s playing was palpable. On a Saturday night in front of 60,000 fans, the Dead played what is often considered one of the greatest shows of the Bruce-Vince era, up there with the second Giants Stadium show from a few days earlier. From the original six-camera video feed that appeared on the stadium’s big screens and the pristine soundboard audio, Chicago 6/22/91 is an incredible performance start-to-finish.

#### Daliland

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mary Harron (I Shot Andy Warhol, American Psycho), Daliland stars Sir Ben Kingsley as the titular Salvador Dalí, a world-renowned artist of the 20th century. The film focuses on the later years of the strange and fascinating marriage between Dalí and his wife, Gala (Barbara Sukowa), as their seemingly unshakable bond begins to stress and fracture. Set in New York and Spain in 1974, the film is told through the eyes of James (Christopher Briney), a young assistant keen to make his name in the art world, who helps the eccentric and mercurial Dalí prepare for a big gallery show.

#### Moonlight

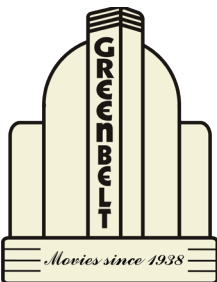
A look at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, a young Black man growing up in Miami. His epic journey to manhood is guided by the kindness, support and love of the community that helps raise him. The film, which won the Academy Award for best picture and writing, stars Mahershala Ali (who won an Oscar for best supporting actor), Alex Hibbert, Ashton Sanders, Trevante Rhodes, Janelle Monáe and Naomie Harris.

#### Spy Kids

Two young kids become spies in attempt to save their parents, who are ex-spies, from an evil mastermind. Armed with a bag of high-tech gadgets and out-of-this world transportation, Carmen (Alexa Vega) and Juni (Daryl Sabara) bravely jet through the air, dive under the seas and crisscross the globe in a series of thrilling adventures on a mission to save their parents ... and maybe even the world.

### Corrections

In our editor’s note to Lois Rosado’s Perspective piece in last week’s News Review, we overstated how long she has been a member of the Greenbelt community. She has lived in Greenbelt for 14 years. Also, the lower-right photo on page 12 is of drag queen Stormy Vain.



Old Greenbelt Theatre  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbelttheatre.org  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions  
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:  
JUNE 16TH - JUNE 22ND

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

**Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (140 mins)**  
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM  
Tues. 6:30 PM  
Wed. 6:30 PM  
Thurs. 4:00 PM

**Storytime on Screen**  
Mon. 10:30a - 11:15a FREE!

**Moonlight (R) (CC) (DVS) (2016) (111 mins)**  
**Free screening brought to you by Greenbelt Pride!**  
Sat. 1:00 PM

**Spy Kids (PG) (2001) (88 mins)**  
**Free School’s Out screening!**  
Thurs. 1:00 PM

**Grateful Dead Meet-Up At the Movies (NR) (2023) (190 mins)**  
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

**Daliland (NR) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (104 mins)**  
Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:15 PM  
Tues. 6:45 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 6:45 PM



- Pete Reppert, News Review, May 9, 2019

### Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published). Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary. All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER  
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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com  
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution:  
Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:  
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).  
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).  
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.  
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.  
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.  
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year  
Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



# Community Events

## Changes Everything Reel and Meal Event

On Monday, June 19, Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café will present *This Changes Everything*, the 2015 documentary based on Naomi Klein’s best-seller of the same name which looks at how Climate Change is the prime global existential threat and how our response can be a unifying force for something better.

The film is composed of footage shot in five continents, including Montana’s Powder River Basin, the Alberta Tar Sands, the coast of South India, the heart of Beijing and beyond.

The event starts at 7 p.m. and will be both in-person at the Café and online via Zoom. Zoom registration is required at [tinyurl.com/ReelNMealJUN19](https://tinyurl.com/ReelNMealJUN19). A discussion will follow the screening. The Café will offer a full menu, including several vegan options, for the live screening. For more information, visit Reel and Meal’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/reelandmealNDC](https://facebook.com/reelandmealNDC).



## Greenbelt Chess Club

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Monday, June 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the New Deal Café. This group is for all ages and skill levels. For more information contact Effie at 443-415-1053.

## Astronomical Society Meeting via Zoom

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will be holding its monthly meeting online over Zoom on Thursday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Kevin Hand of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who will be speaking on Alien Oceans: The Search for Life in the Depths of Space. The Zoom link will be available on the Astronomical Society website’s calendar page, [greenbeltastro.org/events](https://greenbeltastro.org/events), before the meeting begins.

## Free Pride Month Movie and Panel

Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT) and GreenBELT Pride are hosting a 2016 Academy Award winning movie, *Moonlight*, on Saturday, June 17 at 1 p.m. at OGT. A panel discussion on the Black American LGBTQIA experience will follow the screening.

## Floral Photography In the Garden

Visit the CHEARS Three Sisters Garden-East and enjoy the new artistic work of floral photography. This is a self-guided tour inside and outside the garden. Everyone is invited to participate in this show by submitting a laminated floral photograph, which will be made available to the public to enjoy. For more information, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

## Growing Good Soil Workshop by CHEARS

CHEARS will offer a Good Soil Workshop on Saturday, June 17 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Center’s CHEARS Three Sisters Garden by the flag pole (if raining this event will be held inside the Community Center, Room 103). Bring experiences and questions to share. An RSVP is required. Send email to [robbins629@gmail.com](mailto:robbins629@gmail.com) for questions and to sign up for this workshop. This event is limited to the first 20 participants and is free.

The foundation of any great garden is its soil. Part of a gardener’s role is to “grow” good soil, to assist nature in the process that it does so well. This is needed because much of the soil where we may be trying to grow a garden may have been depleted or compromised in some way. By “growing” soil rather than growing plants, you are assisting our local ecosystem and the plants you grow will also benefit. This workshop will focus on types of soil, the soil food web, composting, sheet mulching, the use of cover crops, the use of amendments and vermiculture. Beginning and more experienced gardeners are welcome.

The presenter, Judy Walsh-Mellettt grew up gardening with her dad and sisters in upstate New York. She has tended a garden in Mount Rainier for over 35 years. Her training includes: Master Gardener (1994), volunteer U.S. National Arboretum (1997), Sustainable Mini-Farming Course with Ecology Action (2000), Permaculture Design Course (2013), and intern at ECO City Farms (2013). She currently hosts Still Place: An Urban Retreat in her home and garden ([stillplacemd.com](https://stillplacemd.com)).

## Greenbelt Violinist Performs on Saturday

Greenbelt violinist Natalie Rose Kress will perform a free concert with her Musicivic Baroque trio on Saturday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. Formed in 2018, Musicivic Baroque is an ensemble that performs on period instruments. Their members also include cellist and viola da gambist Elena Kauffman and harpsichordist Robert Warner.



They will perform a variety of works by Stradella, Bach, Biber and more. Musicivic Baroque is sponsored by Musicivic Inc., a nonprofit in Pennsylvania that supports chamber music series around the country. This concert is also sponsored by the College Park Arts Exchange.

## At the Library

**Summer Prince George’s**  
Prince George’s County’s summer reading and community engagement program, Summer Prince George’s (SPG), returns with new opportunities for Prince Georgians to learn, socialize and engage with neighbors. Presented by PGCMLS and the Washington Nationals, SPG 2023 celebrates the national summer reading theme of All Together Now. The Library invites Prince Georgians of all ages to connect across generations and communities by reading, attending library or partner events (in-person or virtually), visiting neighborhood branch libraries and engaging with library resources, whether streaming movies and music or taking LinkedIn Learning classes.

## At the Library

Regular hours at the Greenbelt Library are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Greenbelt Library’s schedule are posted at [pgcmls.info/alerts](https://pgcmls.info/alerts).

**Storytimes**  
Friday, June 16, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8384068](https://pgcmls.info/event/8384068).

Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8390400](https://pgcmls.info/event/8390400).

**Crafternoon**  
Saturday, June 17, 10:30 a.m., ages 10 to 14. Have fun crafting and creating. Celebrate Summer Prince George’s by painting Kindness Rocks to keep or display in the library. Supplies are provided. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8346712](https://pgcmls.info/event/8346712).

**Spanish-English Storytime on Screen**

Monday, June 19, 10 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Listen to stories read from the big screen, view a short film and enjoy an art activity. This program is in collaboration with Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Escuche historias leídas en la gran pantalla, vea un cortometraje y disfrute de una actividad artística. Este programa se realiza en colaboración con el Old Greenbelt Theatre. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8582889](https://pgcmls.info/event/8582889).

**STEM-tastic**  
Tuesday, June 20, 4:30 p.m., ages 8 to 12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Celebrate an influential queer computer scientist by learning about how computers work to solve problems with Turing Tumbles!

Acompáñenos a explorar la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemáticas. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8346706](https://pgcmls.info/event/8346706).

More Community Events  
are located throughout the paper.

Book and Lyrics  
by  
Adrian Mitchell

Music  
by  
Andy Roberts

Directed by Eliot Malumuth  
Choreographed by Summer Moore

Music Direction by Christine Wells  
Produced by Jenna Jones Paradis

**The Patchwork Girl**  
OF  
Z

Based on the book  
by L. Frank Baum

**GAC**  
GREENBELT ARTS CENTER  
June 16 - July 8, 2023

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm  
Sundays at 2pm

Tickets \$14-\$27

For tickets call (301) 441-8770  
or visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](https://greenbeltartscenter.org)

Coming soon :  
*Merrily We Roll  
Along*

**GATe**  
Greenbelt Access Television

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
June 17, Sat - June 23, Fri  
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
[Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

**THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station**  
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**The Duke Is Tops (1938)**  
Starring and debuting Lena Horne in this heartwarming musical film; a story of love, music, and stardom, featuring an all-Black cast.  
Music from the New Deal Cafe (2pm, 10pm)  
**ilyAIMY**  
This locally and nationally beloved American folk band returns to the New Deal Cafe to deliver another awe-inspiring set.

All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](https://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit **Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube** for new video productions.

**This Week at the New Deal Café**  
SUPPORT Greenbelt’s only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642

**NEW DEAL**  
**CAFÉ**  
Greenbelt, MD

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

**Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op**  
113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD  
Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 6/15	FRI 6/16	SAT 6/17	SUN 6/18	
<b>Cosmic Cowgirls</b> 7-9pm Sweet harmonies and some fine pickin’ and fiddlin’	<b>Fast Eddie &amp; The Slow Pokes</b> 8-11pm Swing & jump blues to get ya jumping!	<b>Poetry Open Mic*</b> 1-3pm <b>Little Red and the Renegades</b> 8-11pm High energy. An NDC fav!	<b>Fez Tones Hafila</b> 6-8pm Middle Eastern music and dance accompanied by belly dancers	
MON 6/19	TUES 6/20	WED 6/21	TH 6/22	MON - FRI
<b>Chess Club*</b> 6-8pm <b>Reel and Meal*</b> “This Changes Everything” 7-9pm	<b>NDC Open Mic with Joey Campfire</b> 7-9:30pm Sign-ins at 6:30pm	<b>Pub Quiz</b> 7-9pm Bring a team or form one on the spot!	<b>Old Soul Blues Band</b> 7-9pm Foot-stomping classic blues	<b>Happy Hour</b> 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

Join or renew your membership. Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](https://www.newdealcafe.com), click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”  
\*For more information on these events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS COURTESY OF A GENEROUS DONOR.



# Church and Congregants Wear Orange to Protest Gun Violence

by Amy Hansen

Members of Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ wore orange on Sunday, June 4 in observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Month and Wear Orange Weekend. In addition, the church building is being spotlighted in orange for the month of June.

Wear Orange Weekend is in remembrance of those who were lost to gun violence and also as a symbol to promote gun safety and gun violence prevention.

The original idea behind the Wear Orange campaign was from the friends of Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old girl who marched with her high school band as a

majorette in President Obama’s second inaugural parade on January 21, 2013. Just one week later she was shot and killed by stray gunfire while at a playground with her schoolmates in Chicago. Her friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear to protect themselves and others when they are in the woods. The Wear Orange campaign was started on June 2, 2015, on what would have been Hadiya’s 18th birthday.

The Wear Orange campaign has expanded from a Gun Violence Awareness Day on the first Friday in June to the first full weekend in June.




PHOTO BY JIM MIERS

Members of Greenbelt Community Church wear orange to protest gun violence.

## Wednesday Lunch At the New Deal Café

Telecommuters, retirees and all others are invited each Wednesday this summer for lunch at the New Deal Café, 113 Centerway. Interested in meeting new people, building community and supporting your Café? Join us from noon to 1 p.m.

For questions contact [rspeterson1@gmail.com](mailto:rspeterson1@gmail.com).



**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT**

**MASS**

Sundays 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Road

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



## GreenCAPS Mosquito Tip: Feeding Is Not Allowed

While some people suffer much from swelling and itching after being bitten by a mosquito, others are not bothered by any symptoms. But we should all do our best to avoid mosquito bites because female mosquitoes need human blood to start their breeding cycle, lay their eggs and produce their offspring. Mosquitoes breed about 10 times per season (approximately May to September), and a female mosquito needs just one teaspoon of standing water to lay hundreds of eggs. According to the American Mosquito Control Association, a female mosquito can produce over 400 million progeny in a single season even if only 25 percent of each generation survives. Human blood is the fuel needed to get each breeding cycle started.

So even if you don’t personally suffer from swelling and itching after a mosquito bite, don’t give these suckers a chance to bite you. Cover up if you can, apply a natural repellent and use a fan when you sit outdoors – mosquitoes don’t like flying in a breeze. Above all, remove standing water around your house so that mosquitoes have no chance to breed. To learn more, to support this work, and/or to volunteer, email GreenCAPS – Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides, at [GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com](mailto:GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com).



## Jackie McFarland Celebration of Life

Family, friends and neighbors will gather to celebrate the life of Jackie McFarland (January 19, 1961 - March 22, 2023) on Sunday, June 18 at 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt American Legion. Attendees will share memories and music and enjoy food and friendship to honor Jackie’s life and say farewell.

## St. Hugh’s Annual Rummage Sale

On Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. St. Hugh’s Church will hold its annual rummage sale. There will be great bargains and plenty to choose from, along with a bake sale and lunch. Admission is free.

## Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).



Many thanks to our Public Works and other city employees who worked outdoors through the poor air quality days last week.

Congratulations to all the Greenbelt scholars graduating this month, including:

- Aaron Beverly, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in computer science from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, and
- Prasanna Thapa, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in computer science from Oregon State University.

Congratulations to Ian Blackwell Rogers on being part of the winning team for the DC 48 Hour Film Project. Roger’s team created “The Crown Must Go On,” which was the Winner of Best Film.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

**GIVE BLOOD  
GIVE LIFE**

“Much that was widely assumed to be certain and unshakable is being questioned, and the resulting ferment is producing a longing for a unifying vision. The chorus of voices raised in support of oneness, equality, and justice shows how many share these aspirations for their societies.”

– The Universal House of Justice



**Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

**June 18 at 3:00 pm**  
**Naming Ourselves**

Rev. Ann Kadlecek with Worship Associate Sabrina Jones

What is a name that calls you into your future life? What is a name that calls you to be fearless? In this shortened service (to allow extra time for the congregational meeting to follow) we’ll consider these questions from Margaret Wheatley’s poem “Naming Myself,” with respect to our own names, and the names of this church.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

## St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)  
The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector  
Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM  
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:  
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>  
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;  
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom  
Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God’s love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are



**IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
**MCFcc.org**

**Greenbelt Community Church**

One Hillside Road

We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church

**Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School**

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





City Notes

For Greenbelt Day Weekend events, Community Center staff provided logistics, Public Works delivered furnishings (also 150 chairs for Springhill Lake Elementary School’s graduation) and the Museum welcomed about 60 guests.

Refuse/Recycling collected 20.69 tons of refuse and 7.92 tons of recyclables. At Sustainability/Environmental’s Greenbriar cleanup, 10 volunteers removed over 120 pounds of litter. Animal Shelter residents are three rabbits, eight dogs, six kittens and six cats.

Bad air quality closed the outdoor pool for one day. Springhill Lake Recreation Center, the Greenbelt Library and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness hosted Pre-K Story Hour and the Youth Center’s Teen Takeover featured live music, games and food. CARES and Therapeutic Recreation facilitated Summer Camp Inclusion Training. An Artful Afternoon featured painting on the lawn and a fused glass workshop. Arts obtained an Arts Relief Program grant for around \$37,500.

The Community Center accommodated the Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Arts Advisory Board, Arts Center, Interfaith Leadership and 12 rentals.

Upcoming Programs At Patuxent Refuge

Create Butterfly Habitat. Saturday, June 17, 2 to 3:30 p.m., all ages. Learn how to provide basic habitat to attract common native butterflies and birds to one’s yard. Some free native plants may be available.

Registration required, call 301-497-5887. Meet in or near the visitor center on the Patuxent Research Refuge South Tract off Powder Mill Road south of Md. Route 197 (10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel).

Welcome Wildlife. Friday, June 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., all ages. Learn various ways to attract and help wildlife while enjoying hands-on activities, games and crafts.

This is a drop-in program: no registration required. Meet in or near the visitor center.

Pollinators in a Pot. Saturday, June 24, 2 to 3:30 p.m., all ages. Join in on this informative session about how to create a wildlife home in the limited space of a patio or deck. Adopt a native plant grown at the USGS Bee Lab.

Registration required, call 301-497-5887. Meet in or near the visitor center.

Experience Patuxent’s North Tract by Bike. Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ages 10+. Experience the beauty of local wildlife, plants and historical sites on this 12-mile guided ride. Bring a bike, snack, water bottle and helmet. The ride is weather-dependent. The road surface is rough asphalt and may not be suitable for narrow road tires.

Registration required at 301-497-5887. Meet at the visitor contact station on Bald Eagle Drive, off Md. Route 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md. Route 32.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

**GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING**  
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm

**ORGANIZATION**  
Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Petitions and Requests  
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Presentations**  
- Ask Me About ARPA Campaign  
- Adopt a Shelter Cat Month Proclamation  
- Pollinator Month Proclamation  
\* Minutes of Council Meetings  
- Administrative Reports  
\* Committee Reports  
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2023-02 - Greenbelt Forest Preserve Master Trail Plan

**LEGISLATION**

**OTHER BUSINESS**  
- Metro's Better Bus Network Redesign  
- Selection of Audit Services for FY 2023  
- Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Action Requests (LARs)  
- Council Activities  
- Council Reports  
\* Meetings  
\* Stakeholders  
- Resignation from Advisory Group

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.*

**MEETINGS FOR JUNE 19 - 23**

Monday, June 19, **NO MEETING - JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY**

Tuesday, June 20 at 7:30 pm, **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, June 21 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - WSSC**

Wednesday, June 21 at 7 pm, **PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Presentations, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report*

Wednesday, June 21 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Welcome, Report from Facilitation Subcommittee, Report from Education Subcommittee, Reports from Other Subcommittees, Administrative Items*

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.*

**COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:**

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Appeals
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Employee Relations Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.**

**ENGAGE GREENBELT**

Your website for all of **Greenbelt’s ARPA projects & grants**, including:

- Greenbelt Education Scholarship Grant
- Homebuyer Grant Program
- Tree Canopy Grant
- Micro Grant
- Business Improvement Recover Fund, Round III
- Business Capital Infrastructure Grant program

View all grant programs at a glance at [www.engagegreenbelt.org/grants](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org/grants)  
View the most recently updated ARPA programs by visiting [www.engagegreenbelt.org/updates](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org/updates)  
For all up-to-date ARPA program information including project selection, project updates, department information, and more, visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**  
City Offices will be closed on Monday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.  
**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE**  
Week of June 19  
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday  
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday  
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday  
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

*There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, June 23.*

**REGIONAL POLLINATOR RESOURCE FESTIVAL**  
**JUNE 17, 1 - 4 PM, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK**

UMD Bee Campus USA is bringing together regional Bee City USA affiliates to kickoff National Pollinator Week for their first annual Pollinator Resource Festival which includes a film screening of “My Garden of a Thousand Bees.” Email [s\\_dewalt@hotmail.com](mailto:s_dewalt@hotmail.com) for more information.

**GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT**

This **FREE** program starts on September 19 and lasts until November 14. Visits will be scheduled on Tuesdays To be eligible you must: Live within City limits, have children ages newborn to 3 years old, children who wear diapers or pull-ups. Program Features: Up to 10 bi-weekly home visits from student nurses.

Services include:Diapers,formula,wipes and so much more!

Questions? Need help registering? Please contact, Katherine Farzin by calling (240) 542-2019 or emailing [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov).

**GREENBELT NURSING PROJECT**

This **FREE** program starts mid-September and is open to Greenbelt residents 60+ or disabled adults 50+.

Program Features: Up to 10 visits on Tuesday OR Wednesday between 9:30 am - 3 pm. All nurses are will wear masks and are fully vaccinated.

Services include:Bathing assistance, Medication management, Vital signs monitoring, Medical resource information & advocacy, Mental health & cognitive screenings, Blood sugar monitoring & assist with finger prick.

Questions? Need help registering? Please contact, Sharon Johnson by calling (240) 542-2029 or emailing [sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov).

**CURRENT FREE CARES PROGRAMS**

**BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY HEALTH FAIR**  
**August 22, 10 am - 3 pm**  
Sign-up required. Contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov)

**EMERGENCY DIAPER PROGRAM**  
Supporting Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month. Call (240) 542-2019.

**POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS**  
**Thursdays June 5 - July 6**  
**6 - 7:30 pm**  
Register: <https://forms.gle/K37FSEca9sK28gLW7>

**DINING WITH DIABETES**  
**6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12**  
**5 - 6:30 pm, Zoom**  
A national program designed for adults with Type 2 Diabetes. The program teaches skills needed to identify and understand important information about managing this disease. Register at <https://rb.gy/j58gi>.

**CITY OF GREENBELT**  
**JUNTEENTH EVENTS**

**STUDENT CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY: RACIAL JUSTICE ESSAY & CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 17 / 1 - 3 PM**  
*GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER / Room 202 (15 Crescent RD)*

FREE / NO REGISTRATION

**ALL AGES ART WORKSHOP**  
**FRDIAY, JUNE 30, 5:30 - 7 PM**

Create whimsical, felted woodlands creatures with artist Vanessa Zanin. All ages. \$5 residents, \$10 non-residents. Community Center.

Details & sign-up with activity # 333206-1: <https://bit.ly/42UVwyD>.

**RECREATION SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE**  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION**

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers** - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019. To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

**Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers** - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.



RAIDER BOYZ continued from page 1

team in 2001 and an early captain of the team. He graduated from Roosevelt and attended University of Maryland but continued to coach the ERHS team and has ever since.

Unlike most students who join the step team, Melvern started stepping prior to high school. At the age of 7 he was part of his church step team. “I’ve been stepping all my life pretty much,” he told the News Review. When he began attending ERHS there was a female step team but no boys team. In his junior year he helped change that and now the team is finishing its 22nd season. They’ve earned four national championship titles and have had 12 undefeated seasons, winning first place in every competition they’ve entered in the area since 2001. “These guys work hard,” says Melvern, “and in the classroom as well. The team GPA is above a 3.5 – all of them – they’ve put in a lot of work.” The team also has a 100 percent graduation rate.

“Something that’s very unique about stepping,” says Melvern, “especially in our area ... is that usually all the guys that join the team have never stepped before,” because there aren’t step teams in the local middle schools or for younger children. It’s a hurdle they have to overcome, he says. “Every year we’re starting all over again,” he told the News Review, “but these guys put in a ton of work a ton of effort – as you can see school’s over for the year and they’re here practicing,” he said as the step team continued to work through their step routine in the rain nearby.

Practice, Practice

The team practices all year round, three days a week for three hours at a time. Students on the team don’t usually play any other sports because of the dedication needed to perform in the step team, says Melvern.

They held tryouts about three weeks ago and will be training throughout the summer, working on choreography and beginning next year’s competition piece. “During the summer we train to get [new members] conditioned and teach them the fundamentals of stepping – none of them have done it before – so we spend all summer teaching them how to step.”

The team’s captain, Ellis Hollingsworth, says the biggest attribute team members need is motivation to come back and to practice every single day. “When you first get on the team it’s very, very hard. Stepping is a very strenuous activity. It’s fun but it hurts a whole lot. But once you get past that point ... you’re surrounded by everybody else who is also sharing that same experience. It builds that bond and everybody’s like, ‘we’re all tired and our arms hurt a little bit but it’s OK we’re going to



PHOTO BY RICHARD MELVERN

Dem’ Raider Boyz practice their step routine at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

keep going and we’re going to keep stepping.’ As members of the team that’s really the only thing you’re going to need, just the motivation to wake up every day and just practice that little bit at home, or do some pushups at home, eat well, everything like that.” After a week or two new members pick it up in terms of moving their bodies at the same time, says Hollingsworth, though he notes that strength may take a little longer. “They become greater young men and it builds their character and their personalities just by being on this team,” said Hollingsworth. They develop discipline and they see Coach as a father figure.

As a member of the team, Hollingsworth says one of the biggest challenges is “staying fit but also having the mentality to stay fit for the team because it’s very easy to go outside – Wendy’s is right across from the school – it’s very easy to go outside and eat a bunch of junk and then come to practice and laze around at practice. It’s very hard to be the guy that’s like, OK I’m going to take it upon myself to go and come to practice and do my best and then when I go home I’m going to do my best there and eat so that when I’m at practice I feel as well as I do.” As a captain the challenge is “to do as much as I can to make sure the team is doing the best that they can,” says Hollingsworth,

who is wrapping up his second year as captain.

Covid Challenges

The team faced challenges during covid. They practiced outdoors, creating six-foot squares around themselves in the parking lot and wore masks and there weren’t many opportunities to compete or perform during that period. It was a particular impact for younger students, like the team’s co-captain, Cyrill Moreno, who has just finished his junior year. He wasn’t able to begin stepping in his first year at Roosevelt because there were no club activities due to covid and Dem’ Raider Boyz weren’t recruiting new members. At the first opportunity Moreno tried out. He was the only one to do so. “I was the only one who wanted to join during that time. So I was all alone,” he recalled. “During that summer it was hot and grueling work and I was the only one new to stepping surrounded by everybody who’s been stepping for multiple years, and they were all older than me.” “I was the only person who was new and I was surrounded by people who were not like me,” he said. “There is diversity but there aren’t many Asians like me,” added Moreno, who found that being the first student to join after covid meant he faced an age gap and experience gap, as well as a cultural difference. But the team was kind and encouraging,

he said. He became even more active, began running further and changed the way he was eating, giving up chips and soda. With dedication he was able to rise to the level of the teammates he admired and eventually began teaching new members who were in the position he remembers so well.

Hard, Fast Work

“You’ve got to work so hard, so fast, so you have a lot of doubts at first,” says Grayson Hough, who joined the team in September and admits to contemplating leaving in the early weeks. “But once you get it, you get it,” said Hough, who had to give up track to make time for the step team.

“Summer practice is absolutely mandatory,” said Hough. The new season begins in the summer.

“Right after this show we’ll be getting ready for DRB 2024, which is where we start making new steps and getting ideas out so we can do as many performances as possible and make them as unique as possible,” explained Hollingsworth. Though they learn a primary step routine for their competition piece they then tailor it to various performances. They’ve created performances around themes such as Black History Month, domestic violence and recently a youth mental health routine for the Black College Expo at Bowie State. “We try to do as much to cater to the event that we’re

stepping at, not just cut and paste the same routine all the time,” he said, “there may be similar steps and the same format and people will know our words but it’ll be a different routine just to keep everybody engaged.” The competition piece is the only one that stays the same throughout the year.

Juneteenth Performance

On Monday they’ll be performing the competition piece they’ve been working on since last summer. “I’m so excited,” enthused Moreno. He’s excited to perform alongside other step teams and also sees it as an important finale for the close-knit team, before the newly graduated members move on. “This is going to be our last performance with the seniors. Our captain was a four-year member. He was the one who taught me when I first got here. It’s going to be really tough having him gone. I really want this performance to be ending with a bang.” Strathmore is a space Hollingsworth respects as a musician, he says, and he’s excited for what will be his last performance with Dem’ Raider Boyz. “I just really want to make sure it’s the best that it can be,” he said. Hollingsworth is heading to Howard University this fall, an HBCU with a vibrant Greek life and plenty of opportunities to continue stepping.

Step Afrika! Step Xplosion at Strathmore is Monday, June 19 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available online for \$35-\$75.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

Chief Richard Bowers said that the footage was released to the requesting individual who chose not to review it and it was not released publicly. Byrd argued that public release was required. After a short discussion the issue was deferred to a future meeting.

Program Open Space

Council unanimously approved the submission of the city’s Program Open Space (POS) annual program to the county. The county has previously notified the city that it will receive \$297,423

in development funds.

Under the adopted plan FY24 POS funds will be allocated to 1) \$50,423 – Greenbelt Station South Core Recreation Amenities (in addition to \$112,500 previously approved) and 2) \$247,000 – Aquatic & Fitness Center Facility Improvements.

Proclamations

Jordan presented proclamations declaring the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and June as Peace Month and Pride Month.

St. Hugh's  
RUMMAGE SALE



Saturday and Sunday  
June 24th and June 25th  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
135 Crescent Rd • Greenbelt, MD 20770

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GBC PRESENTS

4th of July  
Picnic

FOOD - GAMES - MUSIC  
BEVERAGES - FELLOWSHIP

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FOR MORE INFO:  
GREENBELTBAPTISTCHURCHOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

101 GREENHILL RD.  
GREENBELT, MD 20770

FROM  
4 - 7 PM

TUES. JULY 4, 2023 | FREE ENTRY



# City, County Council Compare Notes on Budgets, Housing, Bags

by Susan Taylor

On Wednesday, May 31, the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with two members of the Prince George’s County Council to share concerns and get updates on legislation in progress.

On hand to field Greenbelt’s questions were Councilmember Ingrid H. Watson, recently elected to District 4, and Councilmember-at-Large Calvin S. Hawkins II. Also in attendance were Interim City Manager Tim George, Mayor Emmett Jordan and City Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Judith Davis, Ric Gordon and Colin Byrd.

Watson shared excitement about her new position and her priority of maintaining levels of service, particularly for seniors. She emphasized that “most important to me are the people.”

While much of the meeting directed the county councilmembers toward Greenbelt’s priorities, Jordan repeatedly stressed the ways in which municipal services save the county money. He expressed the city’s appreciation for “all you do” and recommitted “to be a good partner with you in our big and complicated county.”

**County Budget**

The Prince George’s County Council recently adopted a \$5.4 billion annual budget, an increase over Fiscal Year 2023. Sixty-two percent of the budget (\$2.8 billion) is allocated to the public school system, nearly 20 percent for public safety and the remaining 18 percent funds county government operations, according to Watson.

While property assessments in Greenbelt have risen in the last year, revenue across the county from residential taxes has fallen by \$60 million.

Jordan compared the county budget to the Greenbelt municipal budget ratios: the bulk going toward public safety, the second largest part for parks and recreation and the remainder for social service programs and public works.

The amount of money that the county reimburses the city for the services it provides is referred to as tax differentials. Jordan questioned recent changes in the formula. He stated, “It’s truly a partnership. We save the county money.”

**Staffing Shortages**

Jordan and Davis asked for support from the county council and executive for hiring qualified county personnel to alleviate permitting backlogs and expressed concern about hiring professional firefighters. It’s “a big concern of ours along with other municipal leaders,” pleaded Jordan.

Watson agreed that staffing has been a post-pandemic concern, stating, “We advocate for additional personnel to alleviate

the problems. I know they’re working hard. We want to help them do better so that our residents are being taken care of.”

**Fire Department, Armory**

Jordan pointed to the interdependence of the city and county in coordinating professional volunteer fire departments. The city pays for and owns the buildings and equipment. The county pays the salaries of fire professionals. Seeking a “true partnership,” Jordan spoke to the impact on volunteers. “I understand their funding has dropped quite a bit” leading to “a drop in morale.”

During the meeting Hawkins called Fire Chief Tiffany Green to squelch rumors addressed by Davis that professional firefighters were being relocated away from Greenbelt Station 35.

A new fire department building is connected to the planning with the Armory building. George illustrated the extensive process and time it takes to simply locate and transfer the deed. “We’ve drafted our deed transfer,” but are waiting for state and federal agencies (including the National Guard and Housing and Urban Development) to respond.

Jordan pointed out that “we’ve been working on this for over three years.” George affirmed, saying, “We are hopeful that this is going to happen over the summer ... and we’ll have that property in our possession.”

**Rent Stabilization**

Greenbelt municipal government looks to the county for support in infrastructure concerns. Gordon and Davis asked Watson and Hawkins about rent stabilization legislation.

Davis asked, “Who enforces it? Nobody knows what is happening. Who’s gonna be the bad guy?”

Gordon described the ways in which landlords are adding additional fees such as pet fees or trash fees, as a work-around to rent stabilization. In voicing the concerns of renters, Gordon

said that many are trying to figure out “who is going to be the watchdog on that.”

While Watson committed to explore the enforcement issue, Hawkins believes that the responsibility lies with the overburdened Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement.

**Development Concerns**

Housing issues were raised in a variety of ways in the meeting.

The county has proposed a two-year moratorium on building new townhouses and to restrict new development to “transit-oriented” neighborhoods. Watson is looking for community feedback on this housing issue.

Davis stressed that inclusionary zoning (programs that require new and renovated residential developments to incorporate affordable units based on Median Family Income indices) can be a way to deal with affordable housing “in a mixed way.” She said that townhouses reflect a “mid-level” income home and she is not sure that a moratorium on townhouses will actually promote the building of single-family homes.

Jordan expressed frustration with the lack of construction currently planned in Greenbelt and the uncertainty and impact of decisions to build for the FBI or GSA. He asked how to support builders in this “frozen place ... it’s hurting the city,” and that we move to “get on

See CITY, page 8

# Not for Seniors Only Program: How To Fight Fraud, Scams

by Lois Rosado

On Saturday, June 3, the Greenbelt Senior Citizens Advisory Committee hosted a seminar about fighting fraud and scams. The seminar was well attended. Carol Shaw opened the meeting and thanked residents for coming. Mayor Emmett Jordan greeted the audience and introduced U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey, who spoke briefly about the importance of this type of seminar.

Shaw then introduced Officer Raki Rahman of the Greenbelt Police Department. Rahman stated that scam theft of funds is done with the unknowing permission of the victim. Fraud is willful financial theft without the permission of the victim. He stated that the indications of fraud are unauthorized multiple payments or missing documents.

An individual should call 911

or the Greenbelt Police non-emergency number (301-474-7200) and report the incident as soon as possible. Depending on the severity of the incident the case may be referred to the fraud detection unit. Also, one should notify one’s bank or credit card company immediately. Banks usually have fraud investigators who will follow up with a given case. Most banks don’t request a police report, but if one is needed it can be obtained from the local police department as long as they have been informed. He also mentioned that thieves can open bank accounts, secure loans, etc. with stolen identification documents.

Rahman suggested using cash or a credit card and avoiding the use of a debit card in order

See SEMINAR, page 9



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

Attendees listen to Karen Morgan talk about fighting fraud and scams.

Greenbelt Farmers Market

**Sundays 10a - 2p**  
Southway and Centerway

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

Family Members Can Join Us Too!

**Being a Member Means Being a Member-Owner**

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AIR QUALITY continued from page 1

the next two days.

Throughout the day, Young couldn't get enough water and felt like something was in her throat. She researched the air quality online and found some alarming warnings. She decided



PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

The haze of smoke over Greenbelt on Thursday, June 8

that if the Air Quality Index (AQI) was over 100 people really shouldn't be outside. (With a code red the AQI identifies air quality as "unhealthy" with an index value between 151-200, during a code purple it's 200-300 and considered "very unhealthy"). On Thursday Young cancelled her planned evening run. The feeling of something in her throat and the need for water continued until Friday night, with some coughing. "It's one of those things you don't notice until you do," she said of the effects of poor air quality. "It makes it scary." Some people will have found it no big deal, she suspected, but she noted that her dog walker said he'd been feeling lightheaded and had a low-grade headache and she left a mask out for him.

Thursday: Code Purple

On Thursday the smoke was denser, and the code red warning was upgraded to a code purple. The Greenbelt Police Department opened its lobby to anyone needing a safe, healthy environment to escape the air quality conditions. The Greenbelt Recreation Department also offered spaces in the Community Center, Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Meanwhile Greenbelt's outdoor pool closed out of concern for the safety of staff and patrons.

Friday: Code Orange

Friday brought a downgraded warning of code orange, during which Greenbelters with high-risk factors, including children, older Greenbelters and those with heart and respiratory conditions, were cautioned to limit outdoor activities when possible. The Greenbelt Recreation and Police Departments continued to offer space for those seeking refuge from air pollution, and the outdoor pool reopened.

Greenbelters Adapt

Groups planning outdoor events on Thursday cancelled or moved them inside. Some Greenbelt parents of toddlers cancelled their weekly meetup at the playground. Some kept children and pets indoors and others let children run outside in the evening, after a day spent indoors at school, though there was still a smell of smoke in the air.

Greenbelt Cub Scouts Pack 202 had their final pack meeting on Thursday evening, including a crossing over ceremony in which cubs cross from their current den to the next and the Arrow of Lights move from the pack over a ceremonial bridge to join their boy scout troop. The planned outdoor ceremony moved to the basement of the Community Church instead.

Buddy McLaughlin usually cycles about three miles to work from his home on Lakeside to Proteus Bikes four days a week,

and on the fifth he runs there. The poor air quality didn't impact his commute too much. He donned his N95 mask once more, which he said helped him to not inhale too much particulate. "I maybe rode a little slower than I usually do but I'm so used to living with a mask it almost didn't affect me that much," McLaughlin told the News Review. During the early months of covid, when much was still unknown, an unpublished study went viral – bikers and runners were spreading respiratory droplets as they passed people and McLaughlin got used to wearing a mask to avoid drawing the wrath of those he passed. After biking to work with a mask on for a year, and having found one that works with his glasses, he was unphased at using one during the air quality warnings. There was less traffic around the Lake, and business at the bike shop slowed down a little, but "it would take a big event for me to drive," he said.

Dennis Fincham, the owner of the lawn and yard care company, Lawn & Order, works outside. "Thursday was really bad. Wednesday was bad, too. It felt like you were swallowing dirt," he said of trying to work outdoors in the poor air quality. On Friday he was able to resume some work. "We followed the numbers," he explained of his approach to the weather event. "Once it got over 275 we quit." Fincham will be working additional hours this week to reschedule clients and make up for work he couldn't finish last week. He fears this isn't likely to be a one-off event for Greenbelt, though. "I don't think that's going to be it for the summer," he told the News Review, "I think we'll see more."

By the time of press, the City of Greenbelt had not responded to inquiries about how Public Works adapted to the challenge of poor air quality.



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CITY continued from page 7

with life in the City of Greenbelt."

"Your collective voice has not gone unnoticed," said Hawkins. "It's disappointing to me," that federal leadership has lagged on this decision. "We're talking about equity ... we need to deal with it directly."

Stormwater Management

Some of Greenbelt's stormwater infrastructure dates to 1937. Recent flooding has resulted from overwhelmed pipes.

Jordan asked if the stormwater project funding was continuing, saying "we continue to benefit from that." Hawkins replied, "We're relying on grants from state and federal and new programs have not yet been released."

George described ongoing negotiations with the county, stating that "we are working on 20 different easements and waiting for the assessments to be turned over to county for remediation."

Davis and Weaver pointed to the damage from the storms of July 2022. In particular, city councilmembers are not sure who owns and is responsible for the pond near the post office on Ora Glen and Hanover Parkway.

Hawkins proposed a tour for Greenbelt and county officials in order to have these conversations on the ground and to "expedite getting a lot of these issues corrected."

Maglev

Davis asked if the current council remained opposed to the maglev. Watson affirmed her opposition and Hawkins reminded Davis that they've come out with a written statement in opposition and "we will write a written proposal to satisfy your inquiry about the position of the new county council."

Plastic Bag Bans

Watson was the sponsor of the county's Better Bag Bill, which aims to reduce plastic pollution and facilitate change in resident behaviors. She emphasized that this measure is not a tax but rather county retailers will charge shoppers and retain those charged costs of bags.

The new requirements will go into effect after a six-month public education campaign and

the distribution by the county of reusable bags to residents.

Greenbelt councilmembers will compare the new statute to the recently passed city initiative. Davis and Weaver were pleased to see the county council following the Climate Action Plan.

Up in the Air

Watson promised to find answers to questions regarding the proposed North County Animal Shelter and the Police Accountability Board.

While Councilmember Colin Byrd thanked the county representatives for increased funding for the Greenbelt Library, he asked for action on reducing wait times for popular books.

Greenbelters Share Ideas

Hawkins spoke about longtime

Greenbelt activists Bill Orleans and Michael Hartman. After sharing mutual concerns about public transit, Hawkins remarked, "I see Mr. Orleans is still on it ... Hartman's still around, too."

Orleans also pressed councilmembers to intervene against the negative impact of development at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Hartman praised Hawkins for dedicating one staff member to concerns of residents with disabilities and shared the upgrades Greenbelt has made to bus shelters by considering how the benches and roofs impact people in wheelchairs when it is raining. Watson said that these upgrades could be a model for the county.

visit  
[www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

Rogers on Winning Team In DC Film Competition

Greenbelt's Ian Blackwell Rogers was part of the winning team for the DC 48 Hour Film Project, an annual event. The goal is to make a coherent film from script to final edits in just 48 hours. At the beginning of the project, teams are told what genre film they will make. In addition,

all teams must include a stipulated character name, a line and prop. This year the character was Linda (or Leon) Kane, restaurant critic. The line was "Come on. Brainstorm with me." And the prop was a flying disc. Roger's team created The Crown Must Go On, a heist-themed film.

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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred June 5-11. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

### Arrest for Vehicle Theft

On June 6 at 4:53 p.m., the police received a call reporting a Hyundai Elantra driving erratically. The Elantra crashed into another car in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway resulting in minor injuries, and witnesses saw the driver run over the Spellman Overpass. The car had been stolen from Greenbelt. Officers located the 16-year-old driver and took him into custody after a short foot chase in the area of 24 Ridge Road.

### Arrest

On June 11 at 1:42 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, Melvin Cortez Bentley was arrested on an open warrant for attempted homicide.

### Assault

On June 11 at 6:56 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

### Break-ins

On June 9 near 6100 Breezewood Court, a man reported that on May 27 he was in his apartment when an unknown number of people broke both locks on the door and attempted to open it. The chain lock was engaged, and the people left when they discovered it.

On June 10 at 2:36 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a man reported that when he returned to his apartment, four unknown people were inside; they told him they had opened the bottom lock to get in. They left before officers arrived. Officers cleared the apartment and found no one. The apartment had extensive damages and was filled with trash.

### DUI Arrest

A DUI arrest was made June 7 at 4:15 a.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane.

### Fraud

On June 5 near 6500 Lake Park Drive, a woman was contacted via Instagram by an unknown person who had her personal information. She was then contacted by Amazon for approval of a purchase that she did not make.

### Robbery

On June 9 near 6100 Breezewood Court, a man reported that on May 19 around 8 p.m., four to five males approached him outside of his building, assaulted him, and took his money.

### Theft

A package was stolen June 6 near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

Commercial theft occurred June 6 at 7:24 p.m. and June 8 at 9:19 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road; June 11 near 6100 Greenbelt Road; June 7 at 11:54 a.m., June 8 at 11:34 a.m., June 9 at 9:49 a.m., and June 10 at 5:05 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road; June 7 at 1:32 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road; and June 9 at 12:16 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane.

### Threats

On June 9 at 1:54 p.m. near 8100 Craddock Road, the victim received a threatening phone call after cancelling an online order.

### Vandalism

On June 8 near 9100 Edmonston Road a laundry room was vandalized by graffiti.

### Vehicle Crimes

### Stolen Vehicles

Stolen vehicles included: on June 6 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2021 Jeep Wrangler (NC plate:

KHA3877); on June 7 near 6100 Springhill Terrace, a 2014 Honda Civic (MD plate: JDPM); and on June 11 near Eastway, a Burgundy Ford F250.

### Attempted Vehicle Theft

This week, six Hyundais had windows broken and the ignition damaged: a 2012 Hyundai on June 5 near Mandan Road and Mathew Street, a 2013 Sonata on June 5 near 8200 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a Sonata on June 9 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a Sante Fe on June 10 near 9100 Edmonston Terrace and an Elantra on June 10 near 6100 Breezewood Drive. On June 9 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a 2013 Sonata had the rear passenger-side window tape pushed apart (the window was previously broken from an attempted theft) and the ignition was damaged.

Additionally, two Kias had windows broken and the ignition damaged: a 2014 Kia Sorento on June 8 near 9100 Edmonston Road and a 2011 Kia Soul on June 10 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace.

### Theft from Auto

All four tires were stolen on

June 10 from a 2022 Honda CR-V near 7400 Greenway Center Drive and from a 2022 Toyota and a 2018 Honda Accord on June 11 near 400 Ridge Road.

On June 5 near Woodland Way, a catalytic converter was stolen from a Subaru Legacy. On June 6 near 6200 Greenbelt Road, a front camera sensor on the bumper was stolen. On June 9 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, tools were stolen from a truck. On June 9 near 7800 Emilys Way, a license plate was stolen.

### Vandalism to Vehicle

On June 8 near 7800 Somerset Court, a truck's front windshield was broken by a large rock.

On June 8 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a Kia Sorento had a window broken, and near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a car window was broken. On June 9 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a 2017 Hyundai Elantra had a window broken and trunk opened, with no other damage. On June 10 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a Chevy Tahoe had the rear windshield broken. On June 11 near 6800 Megan Lane, two rear tires were slashed.

## SEMINAR continued from page 7

to protect personal financial accounts.

The second presenter was Karen Morgan, a national speaker for AARP on fraud and identity theft, who is with the Maryland AARP branch.

Morgan said: "You have the power to keep (a scam or fraud) from upsetting your life." She noted that 335 million identification records are stolen yearly. Information is now currency. In 2022 there were over five million fraud reports. Most of those were from individuals ages 20 to 29. There were fewer reports from individuals 70 to 79, but the amount of financial loss was much greater, primarily because this age group generally has more assets.

When fraud happens it is not an individual's fault, and it is time to stop blaming the victim for what a theft has done, she said. The fault is the criminal's. Nobel prize winners, celebrities and everyday people have been the victim of scam frauds.

How does information get stolen? Basically, everyone's information is in public records, which are all over the internet. Just Google your own information and you will learn that all of your contact information is there, along with members of your family, your children, etc.

Morgan explained that most scams and frauds are successful when an individual is in a vulnerable state, or fear is provoked by a caller stating, for example, that a grandchild is in jail. She said to stop and think. A scammer relies on panic. Take the time to assess emails claiming to be about unauthorized purchases or calls about family members in need. Scammers need an emotional connection to an individual to entice them to give a stranger their money.

Morgan also stated that a credit card is a financial shield if one has the discipline to pay

the balance immediately. She suggested freezing credit with the three credit agencies. It is free and just takes a little time, and it keeps important personal information safe.

She also mentioned that to avoid "check washing" use a gel pen and mail checks from the Post Office.

Use an RFID-protective wallet that prevents your credit cards from being scanned without one's knowledge.

Report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission or contact the AARP Fraud Network at 1-877-908-3360. Also report it to local police so there will be a record. Check credit card and bank statements daily to ensure that unauthorized purchases have not been made. Above all, stop victim blaming. Most people have experienced scams and/or frauds.

Both Rahman and Morgan cautioned everyone to avoid answering phone calls from numbers they don't recognize and even when they do recognize a caller, such as Pepco. Listen, and if someone claims you are delinquent in your payment, just hang up. Find the number for the utility company on a bill and call them to check. Don't panic; think calmly, Morgan said.



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## Teens Arrested Canvassing Cars; Handgun Recovered

On June 9, at approximately 11:26 p.m., a Greenbelt Police officer was conducting a premises check in the area of Cherrywood Terrace and Cherrywood Court when he spotted multiple people walking through the parking lot and looking into cars. He turned his floodlights on and the group scattered.

Additional officers arrived to assist in the search for the group, and two individuals were found and detained: a 16-year-old boy and 19-year-old man. Officers located a handgun with an extended magazine in the man's backpack, and he was arrested on multiple firearms charges.



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Sports

ERHS Winning Tennis Team Gets New, First Class Courts

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s new tennis courts

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School boys and girls tennis team hasn’t lost a match for the last three years. For the last two years – including at the competition last month – they’ve won the county championships. Now the champion team has a first-class court for the next season.

Tennis Coach David Barnes said the courts have a new net and a new improved surface. There have been tennis court renovations at other county schools and this year was Roosevelt’s turn, he told the News Review. “They did a fantastic job,” said Barnes. One thing that remains

on Barnes’s wish list, though, is a wind screen near the road, to prevent debris from blowing onto the courts, “which actually lessens the life of the court,” he explained. Barnes believes the absence of a roadside screen led to much of the previous damage.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FIFIELD

Boxwood Village Scholarship Open

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year’s recipient. For further information or to pick up an application form, email Pat McAndrew at pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net.

Musicians Needed For Community Orchestra

A community orchestra is starting in Greenbelt in July. Violins, violas and double basses are still especially needed. For more information, contact Anne Gardner at annegreenbelt@gmail.com or visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.

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**Wildlife Photography At Refuge Gallery**  
The Hollingsworth Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center will feature the photography of Barbara J. Saffir from June 1 to 30.  
Barbara Joan Saffir is an award-winning wildlife photographer, author of Walking Washington, D.C., founder of the Nature Photography DC/MD/VA group, and a certified Virginia Master Naturalist from Fairfax. Her exhibit, Loveable (Native) Birds & Beasts, features beautiful and arresting photographs of birds and other native wildlife.  
Gallery talks on Saturdays in June will feature topics ranging from learning about wildlife in order to photograph animals in ways that do not disturb them as they go about their daily lives, to framing prints and creating a good visual flow for exhibiting one’s work. Gallery talks will be held on Saturdays, June 17 and 24 at 2:30 p.m.  
The Hollingsworth Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center is located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, off Powder Mill Road in the Patuxent Research Refuge.

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# Reading, Listening to Poetry In the Garden at Schrom Hills

by Effie Levner



From left, Michael Zelif, Francis Steadman, Lauren Cato, John Drago, Effie Levner, Diana White, a new member, and Louis Levner attend the June 4 Poetry in the Garden at Schrom Hills Park.

In July Poetry in the Garden – the CHEARS Three Sisters Garden at Schrom Hills Park – will celebrate its two-year anniversary. During the pandemic the group met monthly while following the recommended safety guidelines. With social distancing, poetry reading in the garden was a safe activity that facilitated, for many, social interaction and mental stimulation. Monthly meetings continue to this day and take place in the garden if weather permits; otherwise meetings are held in the park club house. New participants join continuously. The group is diverse in age and background. Cultural diversity is encouraged and new guests are welcome to introduce their own writings and favorite poems.

Reading poetry in the garden is very special for all who work to keep the garden artistic and beautiful as well as for visitors – an inspiring place for creativity, such as writing poems, painting and music. Creativity brings happiness. In the garden, there are poems by Robert Frost (American), Tagore (Indian), William Shakespeare (English), Max Ehrmann (American) and Rumi (Persian). The group is called

Poetry in the Garden to connect nature and poetry.

Madeleine Jepsen, who joined the group this spring, said, “I have enjoyed hearing poetry from a variety of poets and discussing their work. Since I joined, the group has recited and reflected on the poetry of international poets such as Hafiz, a Persian poet who lived during the 14th century, a poetry anthology written by people affected by incarceration called When You Hear Me (You Hear Us) and several local poets who recite their own poems.”

She added, “I’ve always enjoyed poetry, but joining this group has brought my appreciation of poetry to a new height. Sharing poems, and hearing the perspectives of each group member, has been a really special experience.”

Louis Levner is a city-born person who felt that there was no need for gardens or poetry. But he was quick to help with small projects in the garden. He was also reluctant to join in the poetry sessions. One day, he decided to attend and read the poem High Flight by John Gillespie Magee Jr. He has been consistently attending in the last six months, actively participating, because he

found the garden to be a peaceful and pleasant place to sit and read and the poetry sessions to be a place to meet and interact with a group of diverse and interesting people. He said, “I have never been involved in gardening or poetry, but I find both of these activities here in the garden to be enjoyable and a place where I can take my mind away from the everyday stress of my job and just relax, recharge my batteries and enjoy myself.” Poetry has the power to touch people’s hearts and minds. While initially some enjoy just listening, they often return with their own writing or enjoy verbally expressing and sharing their feelings with the group. The benefits of poetry are therapeutic and essential to mental wellbeing. Poetry has the ability to slow one down and allow the “luxury” of focusing on an inner world, taking us away from everyday practical and stressful concerns. One initially may not see these benefits to understand and appreciate poetry. It is a process and if one is open to try something new – like poetry – they will find the experience healing and mentally rewarding. The direct connection between the garden and poetry is undeniable.

Visitors to the garden experience it on their own. Some come back as volunteers to help in the garden or share their own written poem. Here is a short poem read recently:

Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.  
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

- Rumi

PHOTO COURTESY EFFIE LEVNER



Attendees enjoy Poetry in the Garden. Pictured from right: John Drago, Diana White, Vijay Kowtha, Louis Levner, Lauren Cato, Steve Yosef, Dina Yosef, Effie Levner, Madeleine Jepsen, Nirvan Sengupta and Lucy Silver (back to camera)

PHOTO COURTESY EFFIE LEVNER

## GES continued from page 1

Government Association and student representatives from each of the four classes: Muhammed Hassan, Takaiyah Howell, Zina Usmanu and Marli Shelby. Principal Nelson also recognized the many community members who volunteered their time to

support the school this year. The event was a great way for the students to finish their time at GES. On to middle school!

*Eric McKenzie is PTA Co-Vice President at Greenbelt Elementary.*



PHOTO BY ERIC MCKENZIE

Fifth-graders line up at the Greenbelt Elementary School graduation.

## Elementary School Graduations



PHOTO BY CHARLES RONES

On Friday, June 9, Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) students celebrated their fifth-grade promotion. Three classes of fifth-graders graduated from the primary school. Many will return to DKFI next year for middle school, since the school spans kindergarten through eighth grade.



PHOTO BY EMMETT JORDAN

On Thursday, June 8, Magnolia Elementary School celebrated the promotions of their fifth- and sixth-grade classes. This will be the last sixth-grade class to graduate from the school. It was also the final graduation for retiring Principal Dr. Phyllis L. Gillens.

## Greenbelt Officer Receives County P.D. Lifesaving Award



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE

Matthew Inzeo is presented with a Lifesaving Award.

Corporal Matthew A. Inzeo, of Greenbelt, received a Lifesaving Award from the Prince George’s County Police Department on April 26 for the exemplary performance he displayed while “coming to the aid of a suicidal woman armed with a knife, on September 22, 2022,” says the award, signed by Chief of Police

Aziz Malik. “Swiftly realizing the potential for deadly consequences, [he] deployed less than lethal tactics to disarm the distraught woman and safely de-escalate this volatile situation. [His] quick actions and courage saved a life, thus, demonstrating his commitment to this department and to those we serve.”